



Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

HARTFORD CRIME FACTS 2005

-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

(January 11, 2006)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez presented the following crime statistics as part of his discussion with State lawmakers and Public Safety officials about strengthening gun laws in Connecticut:

***Serious crime down more than 12-percent in 2005 compared to 2004 and stands as one of the lowest crime rates in two decades**

***1559 fewer victims of serious crimes in 2005 than 2004**

***Number of shooting victims did not increase from 2004 (177)**

***2005 still one of lowest murder rates in recent years:**

2005: 25

2004: 17

2003: 44

2002: 26

2001: 26

Here's how Mayor Perez is addressing these issues in Hartford:

- 1. Putting more police on the streets**
- 2. Wants to re-organize the Hartford Youth Service Bureau to link education, health, personal development and self-sufficiency**
- 3. Get private sector more involved to help fund youth programs**
- 4. Develop age appropriate services, like job training, for young adults**
- 5. Continue to raise the bar for education and increase the number of Hartford youth who graduate from college**

Issues that need to be addressed by the Governor and state lawmakers:

- 1. Strengthen laws to get illegal firearms off the streets**
- 2. Motivate people to report lost and stolen guns**
- 3. Shift more funds from "after the fact" programs to preventive youth programs**
- 4. Better supervision of those on parole and probation**

Issues that need to be addressed by all of us:

- 1. Parents need to know what their children are doing at what times and with whom**
- 2. Neighbors, community leaders, and business owners need to keep a watchful eye**
- 3. Clergy and educators need to inspire our youth**

Mayor Perez says, “The Governor has held a number of press events discussing violence. What is needed is action, not talk, and we need a long-term strategy, not more short-term band-aids.”

Mayor Perez goes on to say, “In Hartford, we are combining the positive strides being made with our Neighborhood Policing policy with the push for more community-based programs in the areas of after school activities and job training. However, without the right kind of support from the State, Connecticut’s youth could be put at a higher risk of making a wrong decision that could ultimately change their lives forever.”